

□ 1745

HONORING THE LIFE OF CALLA
MEDIG

(Mr. KIHUEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIHUEN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to remember the life of Calla Medig.

Going to the Route 91 festival in Las Vegas had become an annual tradition for Calla. She would always take time off from her job as a waitress in Edmonton, Canada, so she could travel to Las Vegas just for the festival.

Calla was a hard worker and was about to become the newest manager at her restaurant. She was a mature, grounded, and lighthearted person.

Calla will be remembered for being kind and warmhearted and for being someone who would always greet you with a beaming smile.

I extend my condolences to Calla Medig's family and friends. Please know that the city of Las Vegas, the State of Nevada, and the whole country grieve with you.

CELEBRATING THE EXTRAOR-
DINARY LIFE OF THE LATE HON-
ORABLE LOUISE SLAUGHTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LEWIS of Minnesota). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2017, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the topic of my Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I rise to celebrate the extraordinary life of our great friend, colleague, mentor, inspiration, and much-respected Congresswoman, Louise Slaughter.

We met a long time ago in 1983, when both of us entered as freshmen in the New York State Assembly. I understood in that moment of meeting that there was greatness there, and it only built beyond what I anticipated through the years.

Louise was a woman of great respect, of great charm, of intellect, integrity, and passion for doing the right thing. And, Louise, this evening, we just say thank you for the impact that you have had on our lives and, more importantly, on the people for whom you have spoken and for those who have been impacted favorably by your sound works.

We call to mind this evening the people of the 25th Congressional District

of New York, who have lost a great voice in this Chamber, and those of other districts' iterations that she represented through the years that she served in this remarkable body.

We call to mind Don and her Rules staff. People who were there as committee people assisting her in her every move. We call to mind Liam and her crew here in D.C. and at home in the district office, and certainly her family and friends, people who have worked with her through the years.

It is a great loss for all of us.

Louise did everything with charm. When Louise introduced herself to newly elected House Speaker Jim Wright as a newly entering Member back in 1986, she spoke in that wonderful upstate New York accent, inflected with her deep Kentucky roots, which Speaker Wright immediately discerned.

In her very forward way, she threw out her hand to shake his, and she introduced herself to the new Speaker: Mr. Speaker, I'm Louise Slaughter from upstate New York.

And he responded: It's about time upstate New York elected somebody without an accent.

Louise was a great storyteller. She had this way of really personalizing an issue and making it so human that you couldn't shake. She brought the relevance of issues to human life. There was no better storyteller than Louise Slaughter, and she peppered everything with her unique and delightful sayings that were such a signature of her personality.

She was a person of extraordinary integrity and courage. I remember sitting with her and some of our colleagues when Bob passed, her late husband. I know how much she loved him and how much he loved her, and I cannot imagine the pain she felt in that moment. But I watched her steel herself, pick herself up and go on, just the way Bob would have been wanted, an expression of the deepest love and respect I have ever been privileged to witness.

Louise had a devotion to public service that was born of the 1960s in a truly aspirational moment for our country, an era that gave birth to a newfound driven political generation. And I like to imagine Louise in that moment listening to the voices of the people, reading news of conflict, of hope for racial and social justice, of fights for peace in the face of seemingly endless war in Vietnam, and empowering women and speaking for our environment, all set with extraordinary music.

Bob Dylan's "Blowin' In The Wind" gave us a series of intractable questions about peace, about war, about freedom, at a time when those questions were on the lips of every single American. And Louise, speaking about blowing in the wind, was never a weather vane politician. Amidst the uncertainty and conflict of that moment, she forged herself a backbone of steel and never wavered, never blew

with the wind. She did what was right, and it didn't have to be popular.

Bob had a love and passion for politics as great as his wonderful wife, Louise. They were such a Washington couple. Bob would sometimes drive Louise back and forth from Rochester, New York, to Albany. He was known as an incredibly thoughtful and brilliant partner who supported Louise tirelessly.

Their activism began with their fight to protect Hart's Woods in Perinton, just outside of Rochester. Louise would go on to organize Democrats in Perinton, and Bob went on to found the Genesee Valley People's Power Coalition, fighting against rate increases by Rochester Gas and Electric Corporation.

Bob and Louise loved their family above all, and tonight I want to recognize their daughters—Megan Secatore, Amy Slaughter, and Emily Robin Minerva—and thank them and their families for the gift of their mother's time and their unselfish giving of her so that she could serve our Nation.

Megan and Amy and Emily, this Nation owes you a debt of thanks for the extraordinary spirit and achievement of your parents, our great and dearly departed friends, Louise and Bob Slaughter. I have to speak of them as a team.

Louise left her imprint on all whom she served in Rochester and in Washington and for a generation yet unborn. Louise's passion and foresight live on through the lasting and extraordinary legacy of her work and through the service that she provided, knowing that that service will continue long into the future.

She was recognized as a fighter for the common, ordinary person, and that is the greatest tribute we can offer her. We say thank you to a humble servant who picked up the task and did it masterfully well.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York's 16th Congressional District (Mr. ENGEL).

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend and colleague for yielding to me. I think he really just said it all.

I had the pleasure of knowing Louise for almost 40 years. We served together in the New York State Assembly up in Albany, New York, and I was senior to her in the New York State Assembly. She ran for Congress a few years before I did, and she was senior to me here. I never stopped teasing her about that to remind her that she may be senior here, but if you put the length of our terms together, I am senior to her, and we always got a kick out of that and always laughed.

One thing about Louise is what you saw is what you got. Louise spoke her mind. She wasn't afraid to stand up to power. She was always thinking of the good for the country and for New York and her congressional district. And there was no other calculation in what she did. It was just feeling good trying to help the people.